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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-18 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 2 and amend claim 3.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujidai et al. (U.S. 6,384,693).

Applicants have amended allowable claim 3 to be in independent form including all of the features of claim 1. In addition, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujidai et al. is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-18 are allowable, as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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